Conservation of Biological Diversity

2689. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the various measures undertaken to conserve Biological diversity and the use of its components;

(b) the States that are yet to establish Biological Development Boards and the reasons for so much delay; and

(c) whether there could be a list of States having major potentiality of Biological diversity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Some important measures for conservation of biological diversity and use of its components *inter-alia* include survey and inventorisation of floral and faunal resources; assessment of the forest cover to develop an accurate database for planning and monitoring; establishment of a protected Area Network of National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves; designating Biosphere Reserves for conservation of representative ecosystems; undertaking of species oriented programmes, namely, Project Tiger and Project Elephant; complemented with *ex-situ* conservation efforts. Biological Diversity Act 2002 has also been enacted with the aim to conserve biological resources of the country and regulation of access to these resources to ensure equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their use.

(b) State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) have already been set up in 18 States, and ten States have prepared the draft notifications for notifying the SBBs.

(c) States which form part of Western Ghats and Eastern Himalayas are rich in biodiversity, and as such Western Ghats and Eastern Himalayas are two of the identified hot spots of biodiversity in the world.

Rehabilitation of Tigers in Sariska

†2690. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Wild Life Institute has registered a fall in tiger population count conducted by it in Central India;

(b) whether Government propose to rehabilitate tiger in Sariska, if so, measures proposed to rehabilitate tigers in Sariska; and

(c) the status of approval of project on rehabilitation of tigers in Sariska sent by the Rajasthan Government to Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) As per the findings of the recent all India Estimation of tiger, using the refined methodology jointly carried out by Project Tiger (now the National Tiger Conservation Authority) and the Wildlife Institute of India, the total population of tiger in the Central Indian and Eastern Ghats landscape complex comprising of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and Jharkhand (not estimated) is 601 (mid value); the lower and upper limits being 486 and 718 respectively. The recent

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.